

56-1968

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MAY 24 1956

PERSONNEL AND RESERVE

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Under the provisions of Executive Order 10312 dated December 10, 1951, the head of each government department or agency is required to prepare and put into effect CONELRAD Plans. The Secretary of Defense, the Federal Communications Commission and the head of each department or agency is authorized to take action to assure the timely and effective operation of the plans.

The Department of Defense, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, has tested the effectiveness of its CONELRAD Alerting Plan on two occasions in the past. The tests enable the Department of Defense to analyze the efficiency of subordinate units in the receiving of the CONELRAD alert.

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the Alerting System for the Control of Electromagnetic Radiation from radio communications facilities and systems operating between or from points within the continental limits of the United States, it is requested that your department participate in a nation-wide CONELRAD Alerting System Test at 10:30 A.M. (plus or minus five (5) minutes) Eastern Standard Time (1530 Greenwich Mean Time) 16 June 1956.

The procedure for initiating the Alerting Test will be as follows:

a. It is anticipated that commercial broadcast stations will accomplish the following at approximately 10:30 A.M. Eastern Standard Time (plus or minus five (5) minutes) 16 June 1956:

- (1) Discontinue normal program.
- (2) Cut transmitter carrier for five (5) seconds.
- (3) Return unmodulated carrier to the air for five (5) seconds.
- (4) Cut transmitter carrier for five (5) seconds.
- (5) Return carrier to the air. Broadcast 1000 cycle tone for fifteen (15) seconds.
- (6) The following announcement will be made: "This is a test of alerting facilities for CONELRAD. This is only a test." (THE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL THEN BE REPEATED.)

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(7) Resume normal program.

b. The Air Defense Command at Colorado Springs, Colorado will pass a CONELRAD test alert from its Command Post to each of the three Air Defense Forces and to the Air Divisions at 10:30 A.M. Eastern Standard Time by stating the same message as passed by the commercial broadcast stations. The Air Division Air Defense Control Centers will then take alerting action as outlined in their standard operating procedures. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, it should be pointed out that normal operation of all radio facilities should continue. In other words, except for the passing of the alert message, there should be no disruption in regular communications.

c. Any department or agency station which passes the test alert should use the same announcement as above, namely: "This is a test of alerting facilities for CONELRAD. This is only a test."

The Department of Defense evaluates the effectiveness of its CONELRAD Plan on these test alerts by asking the following information from its subordinate units:

- a. Time facility received the CONELRAD alert.
- b. From whom CONELRAD alert was received.
- c. By what means CONELRAD alert was received (that is, broadcast station, MADW, CAA or other).
- d. If responsible for passing alert to others, list to whom alert was passed and the time alert was passed.
- e. Estimated amount of time necessary to implement CONELRAD Plan.

You may desire that your subordinate agencies furnish you with a similar evaluation. Request that you forward us an overall statement of the effectiveness of the alerting system for your department.

Sincerely yours,

Carter L. Burgess

Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency